

	Agency Name	Department of Social Services (DSS)
	Chapter No./Name	DSS Departmental Memoranda
	Part No./Name	2008
	Section No./Name	2008-07 Appointment of Susan Sonnier as Deputy Secretary
	Document No./Name	2008-07 Appointment of Susan Sonnier as Deputy Secretary
	Effective Date	September 18, 2008

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Susan W. Sonnier as DSS Deputy Secretary. Susan has served as the policy director for the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals since April 2008. As the policy director, Susan provided leadership for strategic initiatives of the department to address issues regarding quality, health information technology, internal performance management, transparency, health systems planning and development, and system reforms.

From October 2006 to April 2008, Susan served as a research instructor at the Institute of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health of the Department of Psychiatry and Neurology at the Tulane University School of Medicine. There she served to coordinate the development of the statewide outreach campaign to support the implementation of the School Readiness Tax Credits.

From January 2006 to October 2006, Susan served as the director of service coordination at the Louisiana Family Recovery Corps where she led the coordination of humanitarian efforts after the two hurricanes that struck Louisiana in the fall of 2005. She served as a liaison to state and federal agencies, foundations, community-based non-profit organizations and faith-based organizations. At the Recovery Corps, her primary areas of focus included housing, transitional communities, education, job employment and training, health/behavioral health, transportation and services to children and youth.

From January 2002 to 2006, Susan served as the executive director of the Children's Cabinet and the executive director of the Juvenile Justice Implementation Commission for the office of the Governor. There she served as the Governor's senior advisor on children's policy with a focus on early childhood, education, health, mental health, child welfare and juvenile justice and helped to monitor and track legislation impacting children and youth.

Susan has a bachelor of arts in communications from the University of Louisiana at Monroe and a masters of public administration from Louisiana State University. She is also a recipient of Citizen of the Year award for the National Association of Social Workers, Louisiana chapter.

I appreciate your support of Susan as she fulfills her duties as the new DSS Deputy Secretary.

Kristy Nichols
DSS Interim Secretary